

Support sponsor
Official internet partner
L'Oréal New Zealand Fashion Week

Contrasts apparent at first group show

Auckland, October 22 (JY&A Media) The first group show at L'Oréal New Zealand Fashion Week saw contrasting styles and tightly edited collections from Catalyst, Denim Lab and Luna.

Catalyst: peasant, romantic, embroidered, ruffled, ethnic

Three lit willow branches set the scene for the Folklore Fairytale winter 2003 range from Catalyst.

Side ponytails and woven circle basket bags were reminiscent of a '70s childhood. Roman sandals and daddy-esque walk socks made the models catwalk comfy. Pinstripe skirts, military-inspired jackets, ruffled skirts with a cheeky see thru under panel hinted at sex appeal.

Fawn, blue, and pearl accented with black chocolate and burgundy in stretch laces, denim and suede appeared on the catwalk.

The collection was true to the folklore theme with embroidered cotton drill peasant tops, low slung belts, shirts tied at the waist, suede camel skirts, fur trims, jersey wrap tops. Blanket tartan and plaid panels on straight-cut skirts kept this range simple and cohesive.

Denim Lab: pleating, puckering, muddy mosses, raw edges twisted denim

True to form, Denim Lab's major twist was on denim, its staple fabric, namely criss-crossed belt loops, raw edged hems and pleated pockets.

Shirts with tight four-button cuffs and puckered knit bodies and satin arms appeared. Floor-sweeping scarves were the principal complement to the garments, while double-breasted jackets were loosely belted. Velvet and satin paired up for a meeting of matt and shine.

An Ally McBealesque short flirty skirted suit teased the audience while a Maid Marion-evoking blouse with ties romanticized the collection.

Leafy mossy greens in knits and black rich velvet cowls were almost overshadowed by the stunning diamante cuffs and necklaces.

Support sponsor
Official internet partner
L'Oréal New Zealand Fashion Week

continued

Luna: primary colours, square necklines, simple cuts, exquisite fits, 80's nostalgia

The Luna collection showed less development than others in comparison to its autumn–winter 2002 collection, but it could be argued that the designer needed to keep a certain signature style. The theme of squares was evident throughout: from a business perspective Sheryll Stuart understood that uniting a collection this way is wise; while the present of a Rubik's cube reminded audiences where her inspiration lay this season.

While last year's angles came from heartbeats, this year's were particularly perpendicular. Square and rectangular motifs appeared throughout, including the very obvious yellow top with the word *Square* in capitals, inside a square. There were square prints in Rubik's colours; square necklines and Rubik's Cube-coloured mismatched eyeshadow; three-quarter pants teamed with a tee; and raw edged velvet skirts.

Stuart also showed four thigh-high splits on a skirt with sheer panels and knee socks with converse All Stars. • **Sally-ann Moffat**